

13. REMARKS:

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract as being over 150 words. Accordingly, the Abstract has been amended to be less than 150 words. Removal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner as objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). The claim recitation of "an aperture" being located between the head and the flanges of the fastener has been deleted in claims 1 and 2. As for the Examiner's comments that the flanges in Figs. 1 and 4 seem to be connected to the head without any tabs, this is not a correct interpretation of the invention. Fig. 2 clearly shows the tab 34 and, in fact, in Fig. 4, one tab is shown in phantom. Given the reference point of Fig. 4, the other tab is not observable. Moreover, in regards to Fig. 1, the tabs are hidden from view on account of the flange 40. However, the tabs are indeed there as clearly demonstrated by Figs. 2 and 4. For at least these reasons, removal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-7 were pending. Claims 1-7 stand rejected. Pursuant to this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 have been amended, claim 3 has been cancelled and new claims 8-12 have been added. Claims 1, 2, 4-12 remain pending in the subject application.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Castro (U.S. Patent No. 6,305,055). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by the art of record, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to more clearly define what it is the applicant regards as his invention. More specifically, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to more clearly recite that the tabs extend between and interconnect the flanges to the head. Castro does not describe the interconnection between the head and the flanges. Unlike the present invention, with reference to Figs. 3 and 4 of Castro, it can be observed that the

flanges are not connected to the head. Thus, claims 1 and 2 are allowable. Claims 4-7 depend from claim 2, and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

New claim 8 has been added to include the limitations set forth on page 6 of the Office Action by the Examiner. It is believed that claim 8 defines further patentable subject matter. Claims 9-12 depend from claim 8, and define further patentable subject matter.

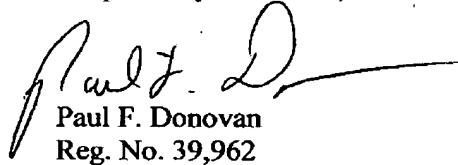
No new matter has been added to the subject application by way of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Reconsideration of the rejected claims and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed, in order to expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Illinois Tool Works Inc.
3600 West Lake Avenue
Glenview, Illinois 60025

Telephone (847) 657-4075
FAX (847) 724-4160

Respectfully submitted,



Paul F. Donovan
Reg. No. 39,962